

REMARKS

In the action dated May 18, 2005 the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 5, 7-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tran, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,359,987 in view of *Dharmarajan, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,374,148. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted by the Examiner, *Tran, et al.* teaches a multimedia speaker detection circuit wherein the impedance load of an output device attached to the computer system is determined and utilized to disable the audio amplifier within the computer system upon determining the impedance load and matching that impedance load against a selected value indicating that no amplification of the signal is required for that particular output device. The Examiner does note that *Tran, et al.* failed to specifically disclose an audio CODEC and head phone amplifier but notes that *Dharmarajan, et al.* teach the use of either speakers and/or headphones in a computer system which utilizes an audio CODEC 97 which the Examiner believes would render modification of the *Tran et al.* reference obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and urges the Examiner to carefully consider that Applicants' do not merely claim the determination of whether an active or passive audio output device is connected to the audio output jack of a computer system in combination with an audio CODEC and headphone amplifier. Upon a careful review the Examiner will note that the claims in the present application are directed to a technique for providing a plurality of different power levels to an audio output jack "by selectively controlling the output of a switch device having a first input from an audio CODEC and headphone amplifier and second input from a passive speaker amplifier...." as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the present application. Thereafter, Claims 1 and 7 also expressly recite "wherein said audio CODEC and headphone amplifier has an output connected to an input of said passive speaker amplifier...." as illustrated by the horizontal line connecting Elements 60 and 58 in Fig. 3 of the present application.

Applicant has carefully examined the references cited by the Examiner and fails to find the slightest suggestion therein for the connection of a CODEC and a passive speaker amplifier

to each other and to a switch device in the manner set forth within these claims and consequently, Applicant urges that the Examiner's rejection of these claims is not well founded and its withdrawal is respectfully urged.

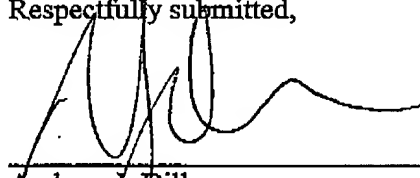
In further support of this position Applicant urges the Examiner to carefully examine Fig. 6 and 7 of *Dharmarajan, et al.* and note that nowhere therein is there the slightest suggestion for the connection of a CODEC with a switch and an amplifier in the manner which is expressly set forth within the claims of the present application. Lacking such a suggestion, Applicant urges that no combination of these two references shows or suggests the invention set forth within the present claims and withdrawal of all rejections and passage of this application to issue is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 3-4, 9-10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tran et al.* and *Dharmarajan, et al.* in view of Applicants' admitted prior art. This rejection is based upon the Examiner's conclusion that a specific power signal or the utilization of a particular audio output device, such as a headphone, is well within the ambit of those having ordinary skill in the art. Without addressing the validity of the Examiner's position, Applicant merely points out that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly from the independent claims in this application which each recite the novel and unobvious interconnection of CODEC, switch and passive amplifier described above. Consequently, Applicant urges that the Examiner rejection of these claims is also not well founded and withdrawal of all of these rejections and passage of this application to issue is also respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

No fee is believed to be required to submit this response. However, in the event any fees are required, please charge **LENOVO Deposit Account No. 50-3533**. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **LENOVO's Deposit Account No. 50-3533**.

Respectfully submitted,



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